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W. Bunn

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Date: September 26, 1968

Place: Vienna, Austria, at IAEA General Conference

SUBJECT: Safeguards Agreements under Non-proliferation Treaty

Participants: M.V. Antiasov, Dept. of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, USSR

Vladimir Shmelev, Safeguards Staff, IAEA

Robert S. Rochlin, ACDA/ST

The conversation centered on the nature of safeguards agreements which the IAEA would propose to states to implement Article III of the NPT.

Shmelev said that preliminary thinking in the Agency staff leaned toward a two-part form of agreements. The first part would be basic and general. The second part, or "annex", would recapitulate (and, in effect, replace) the IAEA Safeguards System document and the Inspectors Document, with several changes to improve their provisions. For example, the frequency of inventory reporting, which now varies from monthly to annually for different facilities, would be standardized at every 3 months for all facilities.

I responded that, in my personal opinion, such an approach had serious pitfalls. I said that if it appeared that the IAEA safeguards system was being revised, this would provide an excuse for further delay in countries which had not yet signed the NPT. Those opposed to the NPT could urge their governments to delay signature until the new safeguards system was completed and approved. I suggested that the IAEA could issue explanations of the safeguards system, but should avoid making changes in it at this time.

Antiasov agreed with my remarks, and stressed the overriding importance of prompt accession to the NPT of as many countries as possible.

Shmelev said that he considered it desirable to improve the safeguards document in several ways, but that it was more important to avoid raising any new obstacles to early signature of the NPT by those states which had

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not yet signed. He said that Messrs. Fischer, Arsenault and Rainer had key roles in planning the Agency's approach to NPT safeguards agreements. I said I had made the same points to them.

After Shmelev left, Antiasov suggested that he would like to meet with me or someone else from ACDA in Vienna from time to time to discuss NPT safeguards in greater depth. He suggested mid-October for the next meeting. My reply was non-committal.

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